

ARTICLES

OF

VISITATION & ENQUIRY

Concerning MATTERS

Ecclesiastical :

EXHIBITED

To the Ministers, Church-Wardens, and
Side-men of every Parish within the

DIOCESE of Saint *ASAPH*,

In the Primary EPISCOPAL VISITATION

OF THE

Right Reverend Father in God

GEORGE

By Divine Providence

Lord Bishop of Saint *ASAPH*.

LONDON,

Printed for *T. Garthwait*, at the Kings-Head in *S. Pauls*
Church-yard, M. DC. LXII.

ARTICLES

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Printed for T. Cadogan & Co. Stationers, Strand.



ARTICLES

OF

Visitation and Enquiry

Within the

DIOCESE of S. *ASAPH*.

ARTICLES concerning Publick Prayer, and Administration of the Sacraments.

FIRST, Whether hath any of your Parish spoken or declared any thing in the detraction or depraving of the form of Gods worship in the Church of England, and Administration of the Sacraments, Rites and Ceremonies set forth and prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer?

Depraving of the Book of Common Prayer and ceremonies.

2. Item, Whether hath any interrupted, hindered, let or disturbed the Minister to read divine Service, and to administer the Sacraments in such manner and form as is mentioned in the said Book? or interrupted him in his preaching?

Disturbing the Minister in the time of prayer

3. Item, Whether is the Sacrament of Baptism refused to be administered to any children-born in or out of wedlock, their birth being made known to the Minister of the Parish, and offered unto him to be baptized?

Children refused to be Baptized, or dying without Baptism.

Concerning the Church.

Private Baptisme.

4. Item, Whether have there been any children baptized in private houses by any Lay person or Widow, or Popish Priest, or by any other Minister, but upon urgent occasion, when the child was in danger of death?

Baptizing of Papists children.

5. Item, Whether have the children that have been born to any Popish Recusants, or begotten by them in your Parish, been publicly baptized in your parish Church by your Parson, Vicar or Curate? or by whom were they baptized, or where, to your knowledge?

Receiving of the Lords Supper thrice a year.

6. Item, Whether hath the blessed Sacrament of the Lords Supper been duly and reverently administered every month, or thrice every year at least, whereof once at Easter, within your parish Church, to every parishioner being of sixteen years of age or upwards?

Articles concerning the Church, the Ornaments thereof, and the Churches Possessions.

First, Have you the Bible in the largest volume, the Common Prayer book, and the Books of Homilies in the Welsh tongue? Have you a Register book in parchment, and a Table of the degrees prohibited in marriage?

2. Item, Whether have you a Communion cup of silver, with a covering for it, a fair standing pot of silver or pewter for the wine, a fair covering of silk, or other decent stuff for the Communion Table, a fair linnen cloth to be laid over it at the administration of the Communion?

Things appertaining to Churches.

3. Item, Whether have you in your Church or Chappel, a convenient Seat for your Minister to read divine Service in, together with a comely Pulpit set up in a convenient place, with a decent cloth or cushion for the same, with all other ornaments necessary for the celebration of divine Service, and administration of the Sacraments? And whether have you a chest for Alms, with three locks and keys, and another chest for keeping the Books and Ornaments of the Church, and the Register book? Whether have you a Register book in parchment for Christenings, Weddings and Burials? And is the same kept in all points according to the Canons? And is the mothers christian name therein registered as well as the Fathers?

Repairing of Churches and

4. Item, Whether is your Church or Chappel, with the chancel

Concerning the Church.

Chancel thereof, and your Parsonage or Vicarage houses, your Parish Alms-house and Church in good reparations, and are they employed to godly and their right holy uses? if any be ruined and wasted, in whom is the default? Is your Church, Chancel and Chappel decently and comely kept as well within as without; and be the seats well maintained, the steeple and bells preserved, the windows well glazed, the floor kept paved, plain and even, and all things in orderly and decent sort?

Paro
houses.

5. Item, Whether be your Church-yards well fenced and kept without abuse? if not, whose default is it? hath any person encroached upon the ground of the Church-yard? have any used a place consecrated to holy use, prophanely and wickedly? have any quarrelled or stricken another in Church or Church-yard, or abused and prophaned them with any unlawfull games, as bowls, Tennis, football, hand-ball, dancing and such like?

Fencing and
keeping the
Church yard.

Profaning, and
annoying the
Church-yard.

6. Item, Whether is your Church full, or vacant of an Incumbent? if vacant, who receiveth the fruits thereof, and who serveth the Cure, and by what authority? and whether is it a Parsonage, Vicarage, or Donative, or Appropriation?

Churches
vacant.

7. Item, What Legacies hath been given to the use and benefit of your Church: how have they been bestowed: who received them, and retaineth them without due employment? doth any detain or imbezil any of the Church goods, or any other gifts given to charitable uses?

Concealing of
Church goods.

8. Item, Whether be not the Profits, Tithes, and other commodities Ecclesiastical, impiously and wickedly, to the dishonour of Almighty God, and prejudice of the sacred Ministry, converted to the use and benefit of covetous Patrons, and by them received and detained, and how long have they been so used to your knowledge?

Alienation of
riches and profits of the
Church.

9. Item, Whether have there been made any bargain and sale, exchange, or other alienation of the Glebe lands, or Tithes of your Parsonage or Vicarage, being presentative; without the consent of the Ordinary and Patron? and if yea, specify the said Lands and Tithes so sold, exchanged, or alienated, where it lay and lieth, and how it was and is abused, together with the value of the same, and who made the same sale, exchange, or alienation, and to whom it was made?

A Terrier of
Glebe Lands
and other possessions of the
Church.

10. Item, Whether have you the Terrier of all the Glebe Lands, Meadows, Gardens, Orchards, Houses, Stocks, Implements, Tenements, and portion of tithes, (whether within

your

Concerning Ministers.

your Parish or without) belonging unto your Parsonage, or Vicarage, taken by the view of honest men in your said Parish? and whether the said Terrier be laid up in the Bishops Registry, and in whose hands are any of them now? and if you have no Terrier already made in parchment, you the Churchwardens and Eldermen, together with your Parson or Vicar, or in his absence, you are to make diligent inquiry and presentment of the premises, and make, subscribe, and sign the said Terrier, as aforesaid.

Articles concerning Ministers and Preachers of Gods holy Word.

Observation
of the form
and time of
Common
Prayer and
Sacraments.

First, Whether doth your Minister distinctly, reverently say Divine Service upon Sundayes and Holydayes, and other dayes appointed to be observed by the Book of Common Prayer at fit and usual times? And doth your Minister duly observe the Orders, rites and ceremonies prescribed in the said book of Common Prayer, as well in reading publick Prayers, and the Letany, as also in administering the Sacraments, solemnization of Patrimony, visitation of the sick, burying the dead, churching of women, and all other like rites and offices of the Church, in such manner and form as in the said Book of Common Prayer is enjoined?

2. Item, Doth your Minister endeavour and labour diligently to reclaim the Popish Recusants in his Parish from their errors, (if there be any such abiding in your Parish) or whether is your Parson, Vicar or Curate over-conversant with, or a favourer of Recusants, whereby he is suspected not to be sincere in Religion?

3. Item, Doth your Minister, Curate, or Lecturer in his or their Sermons deliver such Doctrine as tends to obedience, and the edifying of their Auditoz in Faith, Religion, and good life, without intermedling with particular matters of State, not fit to be handled in the Pulpit?

4. Item, Whether is your Minister a Preacher licenced or no? If no, whether doth he take upon him in his own Cure or elsewhere, to expound any Scripture, or matter of doctrine? And if he be licenced, doth he Preach usually in his own Cure, or in some other neighbour Church where no Preacher is?

Preachers
without Li-
cense.

Do whether doth he, or his Curate, upon every Sunday when there is no Sermon, read a Homily, or some part thereof, according as he ought to do?

5. Item, Whether doth your Minister publish in his Sermons any Doctrine which is new and strange, and disagreeing from the Word of God, and from the Articles of Christian Faith and Religion, agreed on and published, Anno Dom. 1562.

Preaching of false doctrine and new opinions.

6. Item, Whether any victualling, tipling, or ale-selling, have been used in your Parson, Vicar, or Curat his house, by themselves, or others dwelling therein, and by whom?

7. Item, Whether are any strange Ministers admitted to preach in your Church, who do not before the Churchwardens subscribe their names in your Book for that purpose, the day when he preached, and the name of the Bishop of whom he had License to preach? and is any one admitted to preach before he shewed his License?

Names of strange Preachers to be taken.

8. Item, Doth any Preacher in your Pulpit particularly impugn and confute any Doctrine delivered by others his fellow Preachers, before he hath acquainted the Bishop of the Diocese therewith, and received order from him what to do in that case?

Opposition of Preachers in their Sermons.

9. Item, Doth your Minister use to pray for the Kings Majesty, Clergy, Councel, &c. giving them their full titles?

Praying for His Majesty.

10. Item, Whether is your Minister resident upon his Benefice, or absent? if absent, by whom is the Cure served, the fruits received? Doth your Minister or Curat serve any more Cures then one? if yea, then what other Cure doth he serve, and how far are they distant?

Non residence of the Minister

11. Item, Whether doth he Catechize the youth of his Parish, upon Sundays and Holy days, before Evening Prayer, for half an hour or more, in the Catechism set forth in the Book of Common-prayer? and whether do all the Parishioners diligently attend his catechizing? and who refuse to send their children and servants to be catechized by him?

12. Item, Doth your Minister carefully look to the relief of the poor, and from time to time call upon his Parishioners to give somewhat, according to their ability, to godly and charitable uses, especially when they make their Wills?

Ministers to call for relief of the poor and almshouses.

13. Item, Whether is your Minister suspected or known to have

Sinony.

Concerning Marriage.

have obtained his Benefice or Spiritual Promotion by any Simonical compact, directly, or indirectly?

Demising of
Benefices.

14. Item, Whether doth your Minister demise the profits of his Benefice to any Lay-man above three years, and is not resident there, and keepeth no hospitality upon his Benefice, being of sufficient value?

Conferring
with Recusants.

15. Item, Whether hath he, being learned and sufficient, conferred with the Popish Recusants of his Parish, endeavouring to reclaim them from their errors, and presenting them being obstinate for their Recusancy?

Preaching in
private houses.

16. Item, Hath your Minister, or any other Preacher, made any Sermon, administered the Sacraments, or churched women in any private houses, otherwise then is by Law allowed?

Curates not
licensed, and
Lay-men doing
the Offices
of a Minister.
Ministers forsaking their
calling.

17. Item, What Curates or Preachers do read Prayers or administer the Sacrament in your Parish, without lawfull License? or doth any Lay-man, not having Holy Orders, presume to read publick Prayers in the Church?

18. Item, Whether is your Minister studious in the Holy Scripture, and abstaineth from mechanical Trades, or labour not befitting his Function, and from apparel unseemly for his calling, and from Gaming, Swearing, and Drunkenness, or such notorious crimes? or is there any in your Parish, who have been admitted into Holy Orders, either Deacon or Minister, doth relinquish or forsake his calling, and liveth in the course of his life as a Lay-man?

Articles concerning Marriage.

Marriage with-
in Levitical
degree.

First, Whether be there any in your Parish that have married within the degrees of affinity or consanguinity by the Law of God forbidden? if any, what be they?

Private Marriage,
and without
consent of
Parents.

2. Item, Whether have any been married secretly in private houses, or without their Parents or Chaperons consent signified, being under the age of twelve years?

Married persons
living
apart.

3. Item, Whether do any persons lawfully married, live asunder unlawfully; and in whom is the default?

Marriage with-
out Banns or
License.

4. Item, Whether any persons (Banns being not thrice published in the Church) have been married without License; who were present at such marriages, and what Minister married them?

5. Item,

Concerning Church-wardens.

7

5. Item, Whether any persons, by License, or without, have been married in your Parish Church, neither of them at that time dwelling in your Town? Persons married out of their Parishes.
6. Item, What Popish Recusants, or their children, have been married in your Parish; in what sort was that Patrimony solemnized, when, and by whom? Recusant marriage.

Articles concerning Church-wardens.

First, Whether be the Church-wardens chosen by the Minister and Parishioners, and whether hath any taken him to be Church-warden, being not so chosen? or hath any continued above one year in his Office without a new choice? Election of Church-wardens.

2. Item, Whether have any Church-wardens detained any of the Church goods, and not made a just account of what they have received and expended? Church-wardens due account.

3. Item, Have they been, and are they diligent in their Office, to see decency kept in the Church, and Order in the time of Common-prayer, and administration of the Sacraments, and that there be no disturbance, but soberness and quietness in the Church? Church-wardens diligence in the Church.

Articles concerning the Parishioners.

First, Whether do any in your Parish prophane the Sunday by unlawful games, drinking or tippling in the time of Common-prayer or Sermon, and by working and doing the ordinary works of their vocation and Trades? Profaning the Lords day.

2. Item, Is there any in your Parish that do impugn or speak against the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England, or the lawfull use of them, and Government of this Church under his Majesty by Archbishops, Bishops, and other Ecclesiastical Officers? Impugning the Rites of the Church.

3. Item, Who in your Parish do come to the Sermon onely, and not to Divine Service? And who do not reverently behave themselves during the time of Divine Service, devoutly kneeling when the general Confession of Sins, the Letany, the Ten Commandements, and all Prayers and Collects are read? or who do give themselves to babling, talking, or walking, and are not attentive to hear the Word read and preached? Reverent behaviour at divine service.

Leaving their
own Churches
to go to others.

4. Item, Are there any of your Parish, having a Preacher to their Minister, that do absent themselves from his Sermons, and resort to other places to hear other Preachers? or do any in your Parish communicate, or baptize their children in any other Parish?

Opening of
shops upon the
Sunday.

5. Item, Whether do any in your Parish exercise any Trade or labour, buy or sell, or keep open shops, or set out any wares to be sold upon Sundays and Holy-days, by themselves, their servants, or apprentices, or have otherwise profaned the said days?

Keeping holy
the fift of No-
vember.

6. Item, Whether is the Fifth of November kept holy, and Thanksgiving made to God, according to the Duty set forth in that behalf?

Adultery, For-
nications, In-
cest, &c.

7. Item, Are there any in your Parish that be, or are commonly known, or reputed to be blasphemers of Gods holy Name, Drunkards, adulterers, fornicators, incestuous persons, concealers or harbourers of fornicators or adulterers? Have any been detected of such notorious crimes, and what penance have they done for the same?

8. Item, Whether there be any Inn-keepers, Victuallers, or Ale-house-keepers within your Parish, that admit unto, or suffer in their houses any person at the time of Common-Prayer, or Sermon, upon any Sabbath-day, or Holy-day, and who they be that haunt such Taverns, Inns, or Drinking-houses at Prayer time?

9. Item, Whether any markets, or selling of any meat, or other wares, be suffered or used in your Church-yard, or near the same, upon the Sabbath-day? And whether any Butchers, Pack-men, Pedlers, or any Percers, or other Tradesmen, within your Parish, open their Shops, or make any common or open sale of their stuff upon Sabbath-days and Holy-days?

10. Item, What Recusant Papists are there in your Parish? and whether do they, or any of them, keep any Schoolmaster in their house, which cometh not to Church to hear Divine Service, and receive the holy Communion? what is his name, and how long hath he taught?

11. Item, Whether hath your Minister, or any other of your Parishioners, been at any Schismatical Conventicles in any private house or houses within your Parish, and there have conferred about any private Matters for Prayers, Preaching, or Expounding the Scriptures, contrary to the Book of Common-Prayers,

Concerning School-masters.

Prayers, and the Lawes established in that behalf? Or whether any Lay-men have then taken upon them to expound the Scriptures, or preach? If so, you shall present them all.

Articles concerning Schoolmasters, Physicians, and Chirurgians, and Parish-Clerks.

First, is there any School-master in your Parish, that teacheth publicly or privately, not licenced by the Ordinary? doth he teach any Papist or Sectarian children that come not to Church? And doth he instruct all his Scholars to learn the short Catechisme by Law established, contained in the Book of Common Prayer? Is he a Graduate and sufficient to teach?

2. Item, What Physician or Chirurgian is in your Parish unlicenced, and being not a Doctor of Physick in either of the Universities, doth practise Physick? And what ignorant persons have left their trade, and taken upon them to profess Physick or Chirurgery, and who be they that so abuse the people? and do any in your Parish take upon them to heal and cure men, or cattel, by charms, spels, witchcraft, or any other unlawfull wayes or means?

Physicians not
licenced.

2. Item, Have you a fit Parish Clark, aged twenty years at least, of honest life, able to read and write? are his and the Sextons wages paid without fraud? If not, then whose default is it? by whom is he chosen? Is he diligent in his office, and serviceable to the Minister? doth he meddle with any thing above his office? doth he keep the Church clean, the doores locked? Is any thing lost or spoiled by his default, and doth he execute his office duely?

Parish Clark.

Articles concerning Ecclesiastical Offices.

First, Whether be there any Ecclesiastical Officers that exercise Ecclesiastical jurisdiction within this Diocess, that take and receive, or exact any extraordinary fees for any cause? whether have your Churchwardens and Questmen concealed any abuses or offences punishable in the Ecclesiastical Court? and whether such offences being presented, are suppressed and unpunished?

Excessive fees.

2. Item, Whether is there not a table of fees in the Court of the

Table of fees.
in Court.

Concerning Ecclesiastical Offices.

the confistory, allowed and subscribed by the Judge and Register of the Court of Consistory, Anno Dom. 1597. and the same every Court-day hung up in some publick place of the Court and Registry :

Abuses in Apparitors or Sumners.

3. Item, Have any Apparitors or Sumners, under pretence of authority, cited or summoned any person unlawfully, or hath taken any reward for the concealing of any offence or sin, or the avoiding of punishment of the offenders? and who be they that have done so? Do they take any fees not accustomed? Have they threatened any to prosecute them if they have no reward? and do they summon any without a citation first had?

If you know any other default or crime, of Ecclesiastical cognisance, you are to present the same.

The Minister of every Parish may joyn in presentment with the Church-wardens and Side-men; and if they will not present, then the Ministers themselves (being the persons that should have the chief care for the suppressing of sin and impiety in their Parishes) may present the crimes aforesaid, and such things as shall be thought to require due Reformation.

F I N I S.
